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Message Text

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64
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---------- 031281
R 300007Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERN
INFO AMCONSUL ZURICH

UNCLAS STATE 207001

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, SZ

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: RINZLER/ULRICH STRAUS LETTER AUGUST 19, 1975

1. SMITHSONIAN ETHNOMUSICOLOGIST THOMAS VENNUM ARRIVING SWITZERLAND SEPTEMBER 25 OR 26 TO CALL ON EMBASSY AND THEN CONDUCT ABOUT ONE WEEK FIELD RESEARCH TO SELECT SWISS PARTICIPANTS 1976 FESTIVAL AMERICAN FOLKLIFE. MAKING OWN TRAVEL, ACCOMODATIONS ARRANGEMENTS.

2. SWISS EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS KEPT PRO HELVETIA, ZURICH, FULLY INFORMED AND LATTER HAS BEEN SUGGESTING NUMEROUS GROUPS SCHEDULED TO MAKE U.S. VISITS AT OWN EXPENSE NEXT SUMMER. SMITHSONIAN RESERVES DECISION ON ANY GROUP UNTIL VENNUM AND OTHER FOLKLORISTS HAVE RESEARCHED REQUIREMENTS AND BALANCES BETWEEN SWISS FOLK ARTISTS AND POTENTIAL U.S. PERFORMERS OF SWISS DESCENT. PRESENTATION SHOULD REFLECT GERMAN AND ITALIAN SPEAKING SWISS CULTURES.

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3. SWISS EMBASSY NOW ADVISES DR. BRIGITTA GEISER, RABBENTAL TREPPE, BERN, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO WORK WITH DR. VENNUM. PRESUMABLY, NATURE OF THIS COOPERATION WILL BE RESOLVED IN VENNUM MEETING WITH DIRECTOR LUKE

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BOISSONNAS OR VICE DIRECTOR CERESA OF PRO HELVETIA;

4. PATTERN SEEMS TO BE EMERGING THAT SWISS PARTICIPANTS
WILL BE SELECTED WHO CAN PAY OWN WAY THOUGH PRO HELVETIA
MAY PROVIDE SUPPLEMENT, PARTICULARLY FOR ENSURING BALANCED
PRESENTATION. GOS PROBABLY EXPECTING ALL PARTICIPANTS

TO TRAVEL ON THEIR PAID VACATIONS, THEREBY
ELIMINATING NEED TO COMPENSATE FOR LOST WORK-TIME,

5. WOULD APPRECIATE POST MAKING APPOINTMENT FOR VENNUM
WITH PRO HELVETIA FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, VENNUM PREPARED
MAKE OTHER OFFICIAL CALLS AS POST DESIRES; BRINGING
16MM SOUND FILM AND SLIDES OF EARLIER FESTIVALS TO ASSIST
HIS PRESENTATION. INGERSOLL

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